

IOWA BIRD LIFE

Winter 1995 Volume 65 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Long-tailed Jaeger at Black Hawk Lake, Sac County, 10 September 1994. Photograph copyright by Don Poggensee, Ida Grove, Iowa.

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19-21 May 1995, Ida Grove

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Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

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A SURVEY OF LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (*LANIUS LUDOVICIANUS*) BREEDING PAIRS IN ADAIR COUNTY ROADSIDES

DAVID W. DEGEUS AND LOUIS B. BEST

Continued declines of Loggerhead Shrikes in the north-central region and across much of the continental United States have prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the shrike for threatened and endangered status (Hands et al. 1989). Changes in farming practices during the past three decades have left grassland birds such as the shrike with very little nesting habitat (Mohlis 1974, Vance 1976). Roadsides now compose major portions of the available grassland and low shrubs in many intensively farmed regions (Joselyn et al. 1968, Oetting and Cassel 1971, Leedy 1975~. Previous studies have indicated that Loggerhead Shrikes frequently forage and nest along roadsides (e.g., Miller 1931, Graber et al. 1973, Craig 1978, Gawlik and Bildstein 1990), but none have specifically attempted to document breeding pair abundance in roadsides. This survey was part of a larger study of the productivity and habitat preferences of shrikes using these areas.



STUDY AREA

We conducted roadside surveys for nesting pairs of shrikes in Adair County, Iowa, during two field seasons, 1988-1989. Roadsides account for about 1.5% of the nonagricultural land in Adair County. Forty-four percent of the land area in the county was in row crops (corn and soybeans), 35% was pasture or idle cropland planted to grass, 10% was planted to small grains and forage crops (oats and hay), and 2% was woodland (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1989).

Roadsides were about 6 m wide and consisted largely of stands of smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) bordered on one side by a limestone gravel road and, on the other, by a fenceline. Other major herbaceous plant species present were bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), aster (*Aster* spp.), and giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*). Shrubs and small trees, in various densities, usually were present in the fencelines that separated the roadsides from adjacent agricultural fields and pastures. Utility poles and overhead wires also were present along many of the roadsides.

METHODS

Breeding pair surveys.-- Surveys were repeated five times between late March and mid-May to locate Loggerhead Shrike pairs nesting in roadsides; shrikes arrive in Iowa from late March to early April (Dinsmore et al. 1984). Eleven 31 to 37 km transects, located on roads, were driven at 24-32 km/h between sunrise and sunset. The total distance surveyed in 1988 was 377 km. Road construction shortened transect length by 6.5 km in 1989. North-south oriented roads were selected to minimize interference to visibility from the rising and setting sun. Gravel roads were used because the velocity and volume of traffic on blacktop roads created unsafe conditions for survey work. Gravel roadways are also the predominant road type in rural Iowa.

Most shrike pairs were located during roadside surveys by directly sighting their nests in nonfoliated trees in early spring. Other pairs, particularly those nesting in evergreen trees, were located by searching trees where shrikes were repeatedly observed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Breeding pair abundance.-- Forty-one (0.11 pairs/km) and 53 (0.14 pairs/km) shrike pairs were located along road transects in 1988 and 1989, respectively (Table 1). Anderson et al. (1985) determined that the probability of sighting a shrike directly adjacent to a roadside transect approaches 100%. The large, bulky shrike nests also were easily detected in the nonfoliated trees during early spring. Therefore, we believe that our surveys closely represented a total count of shrikes nesting along roadway transects.

Table 1. Summary of shrike pairs located on roadside transects, 1988-89, Adair County, Iowa.

transect	length (km)	1988	1989
1	35.4	4	5
2	37.0	5	5
3	37.0	2	5
4	33.0	5	3
5	35.4	2	4
6	33.8	6	6
7	35.4	3	5
8	31.4	3	3
9	32.2	2	7
10	33.8	3	4
11	32.2 (25.7)*	6	6
total	376.6 (370.1)*	41	53

* 6.5 km. eliminated from transect 11 in 1989 because of road construction.

The survey indicated that shrikes are still relatively common in southwestern Iowa, but the brevity of this survey does not permit us to make any inferences about long-term population trends. However, Hands et al. (1989) reported that Iowa's 8% loss in shrike numbers over the past two decades lead the north-central region in the rate of decline for shrikes. Continued monitoring will be needed to determine if the shrike's population decline is continuing in Iowa.

No other midwestern surveys have counted only shrike breeding pairs that nest in roadsides. However, the three surveys mentioned below were conducted along road transects, and the authors make reference to numerous nests being found in the roadsides. Although these surveys cannot be directly compared with ours, they undoubtedly contained a high proportion of roadside nests and provide some insight into the status of roadside shrike populations in the United States. Brooks and

Temple (1990a) located 0.15 and 0.11 pairs/km in Minnesota during 1986 and 1987. Roadside surveys from southern states have reported higher densities. Kridelbaugh (1983) found 0.42 pairs/km along central Missouri roads, and Siegel (1980) located 0.62 pairs/km along a road transect in Alabama.

The number of breeding pairs in our Iowa survey (Table 1) was similar to those in Minnesota but considerably fewer than those in Missouri and Alabama. We suspect that the shrike's preferred habitat is more abundant in the southern United States. The increasing emphasis on intensive row-crop agriculture in the Iowa and the upper Midwest has eliminated much of the short grass and scattered shrubs required by shrikes. Brooks and Temple (1990b) also speculated that declines in wintering habitat are contributing to the decline in shrike populations in the north-central United States too.

Regardless of the causes for decline and regional population differences, our survey illustrates that roadsides are used extensively as breeding habitat by Loggerhead Shrikes in southwestern Iowa. We recommend that efforts be made to manage roadsides in ways that benefit shrikes and other nesting grassland birds. We also would urge the continued use of standardized roadsides surveys like the Breeding Bird Survey to monitor population trends of shrikes and other declining birds.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SPRING BIRD COUNT--1994

PETER C. PETERSEN

The 1994 spring count was held on 14 May. A total of 14 counties participated (Table 1), twice the effort of 1993 (Petersen 1994). This year there was no conflict with the Illinois state count although some participants also helped with an Illinois count held on the national spring bird count; they split their time between two counts.

Nine counties reported more than 100 species with Louisa again leading with 146, just ahead of Fremont with 143 (Table 1). Geographically, counts were held in three of the four corner counties; no count was held in Lyon County in the northwest but three other nearby counties held counts providing good coverage from that section of the state. The strongest coverage was in east-central Iowa with five counties represented while central Iowa had two and north-central Iowa one count. With this good statewide coverage, a total of 222 species were found, up from 191 in 1993. Seventy people participated, up from 51 in 1993 with Scott County again leading with 17 participants.

Table 1. Count statistics for 1994 spring bird count.

County	Species	Obs.	Parties	Hours	Hrs-owls	Miles
Allamakee	116	7	3	17.5	2	163
Cerro Gordo	128	9	6	39	0	263
Clinton	115	3	3	27	4.5	298
Fremont	143	3	1	13	1	152
Jasper	68	4	3	7	0	9
Johnson	90	5	3	23	0	89
Lee	88	2	2	14	0	86
Louisa	146	4	3	16	1	126
Marion	115	1	1	13	1	67
Monona	66	3	1	3	0	12
Muscatine	101	4	2	7	1.5	75
Plymouth	84	2	1	14.5	0	53
Scott	120	17	12	49.5	1	314
Woodbury	121	6	3	23	0.5	84
totals	222	70	44	228.5	12.5	1795

Only 24 species were reported from all 14 counties (Table 2), mainly because of limited coverage in one county. In Monona County only three hours were spent afield. As a result, 11 common species seen in all of the other counts were missed in that county. In 1993, 35 species were seen in all of the counts. On the other hand, 38 species were found on only one count; Louisa with seven and Marion with six had the most of those near misses. Shorebirds were well represented in 1994 with 29 species, up considerably from the 12 found last year. An American Avocet in

Monona County was the best find in that group. Other rare species that were counted included Prairie Warbler in Lee County and Brewer's Blackbird in Marion County.

More than one thousand individuals were counted for five species; the most was 3,952 Red-winged Blackbird. Every participating county had the high count for at least one species. Fremont County had the most high counts with 53 and Cerro Gordo County was next with 35.

Table 2. Summary of bird species seen during the 1994 Iowa Spring Bird Count.

Species	No. counts	Total seen	County with highest count	Number on that count
Common Loon	1	1	Cerro Gordo	1
Pied-billed Grebe	6	29	Clinton	11
American White Pelican	6	327	Fremont	111
Double-crested Cormorant	11	516	Fremont	274
American Bittern	1	3	Clinton	3
Great Blue Heron	12	313	Louisa	154
Great Egret	8	55	Fremont, Louisa	14
Little Blue Heron	2	2	Fremont, Scott	1
Cattle Egret	3	8	Fremont	5
Green Heron	9	31	Fremont	8
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	5	Fremont	3
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	1	Muscatine	1
Mute Swan	1	1	Scott	1
Snow Goose	4	16	Monona	7
Canada Goose	13	621	Cerro Gordo	180
Wood Duck	13	382	Cerro Gordo	71
Green-winged Teal	4	6	Marion,, Monona	2
American Black Duck	1	2	Louisa	2
Mallard	14	442	Scott	108
Blue-winged Teal	12	155	Clinton	50
Northern Shoveler	5	24	Monona	10
Gadwall	2	5	Monona	4
American Wigeon	2	3	Clinton	2
Ring-necked Duck	5	10	Clinton, Johnson	3
Greater Scaup	1	1	Marion	1
Lesser Scaup	2	5	Woodbury	4
Bufflehead	1	1	Marion	1
Hooded Merganser	3	49	Muscatine	30
Common Merganser	2	3	Fremont	2
Red-breasted Merganser	1	1	Louisa	1
Ruddy Duck	2	5	Cerro Gordo	4
Turkey Vulture	12	67	Fremont	17
Osprey	1	1	Fremont	1
Bald Eagle	2	4	Allamakee	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	Scott	1
Broad-winged Hawk	2	2	Allamakee, Plymouth	2
Red-tailed Hawk	13	55	Louisa	10
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	Scott	1
American Kestrel	11	65	Fremont	19
Gray Partridge	2	3	Cerro Gordo	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	12	187	Louisa	61
Ruffed Grouse	1	2	Allamakee	2
Wild Turkey	8	25	Woodbury	9
Northern Bobwhite	8	31	Fremont	13
Virginia Rail	2	5	Clinton	4
Sora	3	10	Clinton	5
Common Moorhen	2	7	Clinton	6
American Coot	11	294	Fremont	246
Sandhill Crane	2	4	Clinton	3
Black-bellied Plover	3	5	Fremont, Marion	2

American Golden-Plover	2	141	Cerro Gordo	137
Semipalmated Plover	6	71	Louisa	25
Piping Plover	1	1	Woodbury	1
Killdeer	14	310	Cerro Gordo	93
American Avocet	1	1	Monona	1
Greater Yellowlegs	6	29	Monona	10
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	101	Louisa	30
Solitary Sandpiper	3	6	Louisa	3
Willet	1	1	Plymouth	1
Spotted Sandpiper	10	66	Fremont	14
Upland Sandpiper	1	5	Fremont	5
Hudsonian Godwit	3	59	Monona	55
Marbled Godwit	1	1	Marion	1
Sanderling	2	24	Marion	23
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7	197	Marion	78
Western Sandpiper	1	2	Louisa	2
Least Sandpiper	9	353	Louisa	200
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	27	Fremont	11
Baird's Sandpiper	5	109	Marion	82
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	470	Louisa	300
Dunlin	3	34	Louisa	25
Stilt Sandpiper	5	60	Fremont	35
Short-billed Dowitcher	4	220	Louisa	90
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	4	Louisa	4
American Woodcock	3	8	Allamakee	4
Wilson's Phalarope	4	29	Monona	21
Red-necked Phalarope	1	1	Monona	1
Franklin's Gull	5	515	Cerro Gordo	500
Ring-billed Gull	8	546	Cerro Gordo	500
Herring Gull	2	3	Cerro Gordo	2
Caspian Tern	5	41	Marion	20
Forster's Tern	4	22	Cerro Gordo	14
Least Tern	1	1	Marion	1
Black Tern	7	223	Fremont	123
Rock Dove	13	327	Scott	100
Mourning Dove	14	631	Fremont	110
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	1	Johnson	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	1	Lee	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	10	Cerro Gordo, Muscatine	3
Great Horned Owl	7	14	Muscatine	5
Barred Owl	10	38	Clinton, Muscatine	8
Common Nighthawk	10	114	Scott	54
Chuck Will's Widow	2	4	Fremont	3
Whip-poor-will	8	60	Fremont	25
Chimney Swift	14	601	Fremont	211
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	20	Scott	7
Belted Kingfisher	10	19	Cerro Gordo	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	14	192	Louisa	33
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	92	Fremont	17
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	9	Allamakee	9
Downy Woodpecker	13	75	Scott	14
Hairy Woodpecker	10	25	Cerro Gordo, Scott	6
Northern Flicker	14	115	Cerro Gordo	17
Pileated Woodpecker	5	13	Louisa	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	1	Cerro Gordo	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10	35	Clinton	10
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	1	Louisa	1
Acadian Flycatcher	2	3	Lee	2
Alder Flycatcher	1	1	Fremont	1
Willow Flycatcher	3	3	Cerro Gordo, Louisa, Marion	1
Least Flycatcher	10	29	Cerro Gordo	7
Eastern Phoebe	9	42	Allamakee	12
Great Crested Flycatcher	13	114	Fremont	25
Western Kingbird	3	6	Woodbury	3
Eastern Kingbird	14	251	Fremont	97
Horned Lark	13	96	Muscatine	23
Purple Martin	9	160	Scott	68
Tree Swallow	13	530	Cerro Gordo	101
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	14	925	Scott	441

Bank Swallow	13	445	Woodbury	125
Cliff Swallow	12	693	Fremont	303
Barn Swallow	14	1225	Scott	470
Blue Jay	14	446	Fremont	64
American Crow	14	521	Scott	115
Black-capped Chickadee	14	280	Scott	72
Tufted Titmouse	10	85	Scott	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	94	Scott	16
Brown Creeper	2	2	Louisa, Scott	1
Carolina Wren	2	6	Scott	5
House Wren	14	455	Fremont	78
Sedge Wren	4	9	Fremont, Jasper	3
Marsh Wren	6	21	Fremont, Jasper	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1	Woodbury	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	3	Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Scott	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	13	118	Allamakee	22
Eastern Bluebird	13	89	Lee	18
Veery	4	5	Cerro Gordo	2
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	13	Cerro Gordo	7
Swainson's Thrush	12	46	Scott	9
Wood Thrush	10	48	Scott	13
American Robin	14	1149	Cerro Gordo	244
Gray Catbird	14	416	Muscatine	62
Northern Mockingbird	4	5	Louisa	2
Brown Thrasher	14	307	Fremont	119
Cedar Waxwing	11	192	Fremont	54
Loggerhead Shrike	3	4	Fremont	2
European Starling	14	980	Scott	270
White-eyed Vireo	1	4	Lee	4
Bell's Vireo	4	51	Fremont	44
Solitary Vireo	2	5	Woodbury	3
Yellow-throated Vireo	10	58	Allamakee	18
Warbling Vireo	14	134	Scott	18
Philadelphia Vireo	1	2	Louisa	2
Red-eyed Vireo	12	76	Marion	13
Blue-winged Warbler	3	20	Lee	10
Golden-winged Warbler	5	7	Cerro Gordo, Scott	2
Tennessee Warbler	14	469	Fremont	85
Orange-crowned Warbler	4	7	Woodbury	4
Nashville Warbler	11	25	Louisa, Scott	5
Northern Parula	7	13	Fremont	3
Yellow Warbler	12	194	Fremont	48
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7	39	Cerro Gordo	22
Magnolia Warbler	6	17	Cerro Gordo	7
Cape May Warbler	1	2	Clinton	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	12	98	Cerro Gordo	43
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	2	Cerro Gordo, Scott	1
Blackburnian Warbler	5	17	Cerro Gordo	10
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1	Marion	1
Prairie Warbler	1	1	Lee	1
Palm Warbler	5	17	Clinton	7
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	3	Clinton	2
Blackpoll Warbler	9	43	Clinton	12
Cerulean Warbler	5	22	Allamakee	10
Black-and-white Warbler	6	14	Woodbury	4
American Redstart	13	308	Allamakee	110
Prothonotary Warbler	6	12	Louisa	4
Worm-eating Warbler	2	2	Lee, Louisa	1
Ovenbird	9	63	Allamakee	39
Northern Waterthrush	8	19	Cerro Gordo	4
Louisiana Waterthrush	2	2	Fremont, Lee	1
Kentucky Warbler	5	10	Lee	4
Mourning Warbler	1	1	Fremont	1
Common Yellowthroat	13	499	Fremont	242
Hooded Warbler	2	2	Lee, Scott	1
Wilson's Warbler	7	19	Fremont	9
Canada Warbler	1	1	Louisa	1
Summer Tanager	2	9	Fremont	8
Scarlet Tanager	11	35	Allamakee	7

Northern Cardinal	13	457	Scott	118
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14	275	Jasper	38
Blue Grosbeak	1	1	Fremont	1
Indigo Bunting	12	211	Clinton	43
Dickcissel	9	148	Fremont	69
Rufous-sided Towhee	11	93	Fremont	16
Chipping Sparrow	12	284	Fremont	48
Field Sparrow	14	147	Jasper	22
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	15	Woodbury	14
Vesper Sparrow	9	35	Plymouth	7
Lark Sparrow	8	82	Louisa	20
Savannah Sparrow	9	36	Fremont	7
Grasshopper Sparrow	10	77	Jasper, Plymouth	16
Song Sparrow	13	304	Clinton	45
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	7	Cerro Gordo, Plymouth, Scott	2
Swamp Sparrow	6	17	Clinton	6
White-throated Sparrow	8	42	Cerro Gordo	13
White-crowned Sparrow	7	13	Clinton, Muscatine	3
Harris' Sparrow	3	8	Fremont	4
Bobolink	9	42	Cerro Gordo	11
Red-winged Blackbird	13	3952	Cerro Gordo	1089
Eastern Meadowlark	12	177	Lee	31
Western Meadowlark	11	193	Fremont	72
Yellow-headed Blackbird	5	339	Fremont	153
Brewer's Blackbird	1	1	Marion	1
Great-tailed Grackle	2	10	Fremont	6
Common Grackle	14	1633	Cerro Gordo	595
Brown-headed Cowbird	13	701	Clinton	126
Orchard Oriole	6	102	Fremont	77
Northern Oriole	14	393	Louisa	59
Purple Finch	1	6	Clinton	6
House Finch	12	159	Scott	51
American Goldfinch	13	615	Fremont	174
House Sparrow	14	1148	Scott	277

LITERATURE CITED

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FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1994

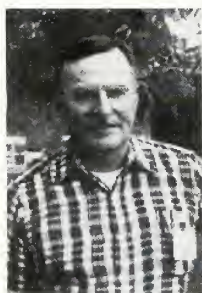
THOMAS H. KENT

WEATHER

August was cool, with average temperature 2.4 degrees below normal. There was a warming trend toward the end of the month. Rainfall was slightly below normal.

September and October were warmer than normal by 2.3 and 2.1 degrees, respectively. The first frost came on 10 October in the north and 26 October in the south. Rainfall in September and October was below normal in the southeast and slightly above normal elsewhere. There was no snow in October, which is unusual.

November temperatures were 2.5 degrees above average with above normal precipitation. The first winter storm hit the northern parts of the state the weekend after Thanksgiving.



Tom Kent

GENERAL TRENDS

The cool weather early in the period and warm weather late in the period were associated with many early and late records. Observers in the northeast (DeC) and northwest (PE) noted an early influx of warblers in August. Water birds were late and spread out. The late November storm brought down a number of late water birds such as scoters and Oldsquaw. Most of the large, late gulls had not arrived by the end of the period. Shorebirds were widely scattered in location and timing.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

The fall season was outstanding for rarities. Accidental species reported were Clark's Grebe, Barrow's Goldeneye, Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Red Phalarope, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Steller's Jay, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Some of these species will be moved to the Casual list when the next checklist is published.

Casual species were Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Burrowing Owl.

Some of the rarer regular species included Red-necked Grebe, Ibis species, Cinnamon Teal, Prairie Falcon, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Henslow's Sparrow.

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck found this summer remained into August. The Records Committee has moved Trumpeter Swan from Extirpated to Regular. Birders should use American Birding Association guidelines to determine which ones should be "counted". All should be reported and documented. One exotic, Chukar, was reported.

SPECIES DATA (* = documented, [] = record dates)

Red-throated Loon: 1 mostly in basic plumage was at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. on 25 Nov (*BKP/LJP)(3rd latest).

Pacific Loon: The bird that summered at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. (*THK, m.ob.) was last noted on 16 Sep (JJD). A fall bird was reported at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. on 7 Nov (*PE).

- Common Loon:** First: 1 on 13 Oct was at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Last: 1 on 28 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). High count: 122 on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Other reports were of 1 to 37 at seven other locations. At West Okoboji, 2 summered to early Aug (Marty Eby fide SJD).
- Pied-billed Grebe:** High counts: 150 at West Hottes L. on 25 Sep (LAS), 143 at L. Manawa on 22 Sep (BKP/LJP), and 101 at Rathbun Res. on 8 Oct (RLC).
- Horned Grebe:** There were a number of reports of very early birds in northwestern Iowa, none with any description to eliminate Eared Grebe or to indicate the plumage, and only one indicated that the observer was aware of the early date. There were reports from 13 locations, most from mid-October through November with high count of 20 at L. Manawa on 8 Nov (BKP/LJP).
- Red-necked Grebe:** All: 2 on 23 Nov at Clear L. (CJF-details); and 1 on 24 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP-details)[3rd latest].
- Eared Grebe:** First: 2 at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. on 16, 20 Aug (JJD, LAS). Last: 1 on 26 Nov at Little Wall L. (SJD). High count: 3 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 14 Sep (MCK) and at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct (SJD). Others were distributed at 10 other locations from August through November.
- Western Grebe:** First: 2 on 28 Aug at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. (LAS). Last: 1 on 29 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 5 at West Okoboji on 30 Oct (ET) and at L. Manawa on 5 Nov (PHA/RIA). Between 5 and 26 November, 1 to 4 were also reported from other locations in Dickinson Co., Red Rock Res., Blue L., Lost Island L., Clear L., and Pleasant Creek L., which is more than usual.
- Clark's Grebe:** 1 was found on the ice at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. on 25 Nov (*SJD-photo).
- American White Pelican:** Last: 1 on 26 Nov in Lee Co. (CE). High count: 1,500 at Red Rock Res. on 20 Aug (RLC). On 25 Sep, 1,230 migrated past Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP). In September, hundreds were reported from 8 locations. In November, 1 to 8 lingered at 8 locations.
- Double-crested Cormorant:** High count: 494 migrating at Hitchcock N.A. on 26 Sep (BKP/LJP).
- American Bittern:** All (singles): 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); 12, 14 Oct at Tomahawk L. in Sac Co. (JLF, PE); and 15 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD).
- Least Bittern:** All: 1 on 3 Aug at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (PE); 4 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); and 1 on 7 Aug at Hottes L. (PCP).
- Great Blue Heron:** 1 was considered late at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. on 25 Nov (JV).
- Great Egret:** Last: 1 on 5 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (AMJ). High count: 135 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 28 Aug (MCK). Other late birds were 1 on 3 Nov at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPR) and 2 on 3 Nov at Credit Is. (PCP). In Muscatine Co., 52 were along a backwater on 28 Sep (DCD).
- Snowy Egret:** All: 1 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD); 1 or 2 from 4 to 11 Aug at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (SJD, JLF, PHA/RIA); 1 on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 5 on 28 Aug at Devil's Creek Access in Lee Co. (CE); and 1 on 15 Sep at Blue L. (PE)[3rd latest]. A follow up report was of 1 w. of Boone on 9 May 1993 (*MJ).
- Little Blue Heron:** All: 2 imm. at Anderson L. in Hamilton Co. 1, 4 Aug (SJD, MPR, JLF); 3 ad. and 5 imm. at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. on 4, 11, 13 Aug (SJD, JLF, PHA/RIA); 7 imm. at Otter Creek M. on 6 Aug (MPR); 2 imm. at Decatur Bend in Monona Co. on 19 Aug (PE); 3 imm. at Red Rock Res. on 20 Aug (RLC); and 1 imm. at Long Pond in Greene Co. on 31 Aug (JSi). At Sheldon Basin on 7 Aug, there were six immatures, 1 with "calico" plumage (PHA/RIA).
- Cattle Egret:** All: 2 on 27-28 Aug in Lee Co. (CE); and 1 on 15 Sep at Tomahawk M. (HZ, JLF). Were more seen, or were fewer than normal present?
- Green Heron:** Last: 6 on 27 Aug in Dallas Co. (RLC).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Last: 1 imm. on 11 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD)[record latest, except for two winter records]. High count: 8 in Palo Alto Co. on 1 Oct (LAS). There were reports from seven other locations.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 imm. on 3 Aug at Garlock Sl. in Dickinson Co. (SJD); 1 or 2 from 4 to 11 Aug in SW Fremont Co. (SJD, JLF); and 1 on 10 Sep at Anderson L. (HZ).
- Ibis species:** 1 was at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. from 10 to 14 Oct (*JLF, PE)[3rd latest]. There was another secondhand report without details.
- Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** The bird found at Goose L. in Clinton Co. in July was last reported on 8 Sep (Don Mueller fide PCP).
- Tundra Swan:** First: 4 on 25 Oct at Kettleson Hogsback A. (DCH). High count: 197 on 11 Nov at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. (JLF). Others were reported from Clayton, Johnson, and Kossuth counties.
- Trumpeter Swan:** All: 3 unmarked free-flying birds at Bays Branch W.A. on 6 Aug which were one-year-old birds that had been brought in from Wisconsin (*THK); 1 unmarked ad. n. of Clear L. on 17 Oct (*RGo); 2 ad. with blue neck collars (apparently Wisconsin birds) at Coralville Res. on 23 Nov (THK); and 1 ad with orange wing tag #217 (from Minnesota) at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. on 29-30 Nov (SJD, JJD).

Greater White-fronted Goose: High count: 407 on 1 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Flocks of more than 100 were reported from central Iowa from 21 Oct to 8 Nov. A bird that summered at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co. was seen to 7 Sep (MPR).

Snow Goose: High count: 800,000 on 24 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (fide SJD). Birds that probably summered include 6 at Swan L. in Dickinson Co. on 2 Aug (SJD), 3 at Dan Green Sl. on 3 Aug (SJD), and 1 at Black Hawk L. on 6 Aug (THK). A bird at De Soto N.W.R. on 22 Nov was color marked at Wrangel Is. in Russia (SJD).

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 25 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth Co. (MCK-details)[record earliest]; 3 on 6 Nov in Woodbury Co. (BFH); 5 on 8 Nov and 7 on 15 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD); 1 on 12 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP); and 70 on 22 Nov at De Soto N.W.R. (SJD).

Canada Goose: 11,000 were at Bays Branch W.A. on 8 Nov (SJD).

Wood Duck: Last: 6 on 24 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 263 on 4 Aug at Forney L. (SJD).

American Black Duck: 1-3 were reported from 5 counties.

Northern Pintail: First: 1 on 5 Sep at Tomahawk M. (PE).

Blue-winged Teal: High count: 240 in Dallas Co. on 27 Aug (RLC).

Cinnamon Teal: A male in partial molt was on ice-covered Blue L. on 30 Nov, three days after a winter storm (*PE)[record latest, by far].

Northern Shoveler: Last: 1 on 25 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (JDa). High count: 80 on 22 Sep at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Canvasback: A brood was at Mud L. in Clay Co. in Aug (Jennifer Sells fide JJD).

Redhead: High count: 40 on 31 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Greater Scaup: All: 1 on 30 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (CE-details); 4 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 1 on 12 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD); 1 female on 24 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); and 5 on 26 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD).

Lesser Scaup: High count: 11,000 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Oldsquaw: All: 1 on 6 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AMJ, JLF); 1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD); 1 on 18 Nov at Mason City (RGo); 2-4 from 24 to 30 Nov at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD, CE, THK); 1 or 2 on 24 to 28 Nov at L. Manawa/Midwest Power Ponds (BKP/LJP, EuA/EIA); and 5 on 30 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). This is more than usual.

Black Scoter: All: 1 female/imm. on 12 Oct at Keokuk (SJD)[record earliest]; 2 males and 1 female on 27 Oct at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (fide PE); 1 female on 29 Oct and 1 male on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF, AMJ); and 8 female/imm. on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Surf Scoter: All: 1 on 8, 24 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC, TNJ); 4 on 11 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK); 1 on 5, 12 Nov and 5 on 26 Nov at L. Anita in Cass Co. (PHA/RIA, CE, EuA/EIA); 1 on 11 Nov at Swan L. in Carroll Co. (SJD); and 1 imm. male at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: All: 7 female/imm. on 12 Oct at Keokuk (SJD)[ties 2nd earliest]; 2 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (SJD, JJD); 1 on 3, 4 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD, JLF); 1 on 11-18 Nov at Pine L. (MPR); 1 ad. male on 25 Nov at South Twin L. (SJD); 2 on 26 Nov at L. Anita (EuA/EIA); and 1 ad. male on 27 Nov at Carter L. (BKP/LJP).

Common Goldeneye: First: 2 on 25 Oct at L. Manawa/Midwest Power Ponds (SJD)[3rd earliest].

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1 male was seen at Terra L. in Polk Co. on 27-28 Nov (Jerry Jancik fide PHA/RIA-photo).

Bufflehead: High count: 96 on 5 Nov at West Okoboji (LAS).

Hooded Merganser: High count: 198 on 26 Nov at Spirit L. (SJD). Another large group was 138 at Saylorville Res. on 19 Nov (SJD).

Common Merganser: A male was at Spirit L. on 5 Aug (SJD). Another unusual date was 10 Sep at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (CE).

Red-breasted Merganser: At L. Manawa, the first was on 31 Oct, the last on 27 Nov, and the high count of 61 was on 10 Nov (BKP/LJP).

Ruddy Duck: High count: 100 on 11 Nov at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Turkey Vulture: Last: 13 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (JLF). High count: 41 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Another large group were 35 at Stone P. on 9 Oct (BL). On 20 Aug, 2 young left a nest in a haymow of a fallen barn in Decatur Co. (JDG).

Osprey: First: 6 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Last: 26 Nov in Warren Co. (JSi). High count: 13 on 23 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). There were 21 other reports of 1 to 3 birds distributed from early August to early November. A bird at L. Macbride was swimming, but after a few minutes was able to take off (THK). There were unconfirmed summer reports from Dickinson Co. for the last two years (DCH). This is a species that is inconsistently reported, so it is difficult to judge whether numbers are on the increase.

Mississippi Kite: First-year birds flew by both hawk watch locations: over Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. on 23 Sep (*BKP/LJP) and over Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. on 26 Sep (*BPr).

Bald Eagle: This year there were 32 nests in 14 counties with 42 fledged from 23 successful nests (BEH). The migration peak at Grammer Grove W.A. was 14 on 14 Nov (BPr).

Northern Harrier: High count: 17 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: High count: 87 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). At Grammer Grove W.A. the high count was 61 on 22 Oct, but over 40 were also seen on 16 Sep, 26 Sep, and 18 Oct (BPr).

Cooper's Hawk: High count: 8 on 1 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). An early migrant or summer resident was at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 4 Aug (JLF).

Northern Goshawk: All: ad. eating a Sharp-shinned Hawk on 27 Sep in Mason City (CJF-details); imm. on 1 Oct at Hitchcock W.A. (BKP/LJP); imm. on 23 Nov at Tomahawk M. (PE); ad. on 25 Nov at Backbone S.P. (JLF); and imm. on 27 Nov at Mason City (*RGo).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: imm. on 14 Aug at Yellow River F. (JLF); 17 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP); 20 Oct at Cone M. (EuA/EIA); 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (THK, MPr); and 4 at Grammer Grove during the fall (BPr).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 4 on 26 Aug in Lucas Co. (RLC). Last: 1 on 7 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP)[2nd latest]. High count: 1,026 on 18 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Swainson's Hawk: Last: 2 on 19 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 50 at Kettleson Hogsback A. on 7 Oct (ET). Other high numbers were 23 on 7 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP) and 26 on 8 Oct at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPr).

Red-tailed Hawk: High count: 90 on 22 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr). The high count of 76 at Hitchcock N.A. also was on 22 Oct (BKP/LJP). Counts of more than 30 were reported from 9 Oct to 21 Nov. Krider's red-tails were in Dickinson Co. on 25 Sep (ET), Linn Co. on 13 Oct (CE), and Sioux Co. on 21 Oct (JV). Harlan's red-tails were in Kossuth Co. on 11 Oct and 16 Nov (MCK) and Ida Co. on 16 Oct (PE).

Ferruginous Hawk: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Rough-legged Hawk: First: 23 Oct in Woodbury Co. (BL). There were 14 reports of singles from late October through November. As with Osprey, more than usual were reported, but some observers report this species and others do not.

Golden Eagle: First: 20 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). All reports were from three areas: 9 at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 3 at Grammer Grove W.A. in Marshall Co. (BPr), and 3 in Allamakee Co. (JLF, PHA/RIA). The few that were aged were immatures.

American Kestrel: High count: 8 on 15 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). No one reported any large numbers or migration peaks.

Merlin: First: 3 on 3 Sep n. of Sabula (PCP). High count: 6 on 23 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Of the 29 reported, 25 were from September, 2 from October, and 2 from November.

Peregrine Falcon: First: ad. on 7 Sep in Emmet Co. (DHe). Of the 20 reported, 12 were from September, 5 from October, and 3 from November.

Prairie Falcon: 1 on 25 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (SJD-details, BKP/LJP-details).

Gray Partridge: John Van Dyk reports that this species' numbers are much reduced in Sioux Co., and that he no longer has dependable places to find them. The only reports were from Palo Alto Co. on 5 Aug (THK) and Madison Co. on 23 Nov (EuA/EIA).

Chukar: There was a secondhand report of 2 adults and 4 young in northwestern Davenport (PCP) for this non-established introduced species. The owner of a game hunting farm in Clinton County indicated that some of the birds that he imported in the fall would nest the next spring but the young would not survive (THK).

Ruffed Grouse: One observer (who shall be unnamed) had great difficulty in finding this species in Allamakee County. Numbers are said to be in a down cycle.

Northern Bobwhite: None were found in Sioux Co. (JV).

Yellow Rail: All: 2 on 21 Sep at Snake Creek M. (JLF-details); and 1 on 5 Oct se. of Lake Park in Dickinson Co. (*DCH).

Virginia Rail: All: 2 on 3 Aug at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (PE); 1 on 4 Aug at State Line M. in Kossuth Co. (JLF); 1 on 15 Aug at Zirbel Sl. (RGo); and 1 on 26 Sep at Blue L. (PE).

Common Moorhen: Last: 1 imm. on 29 Oct at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (SJD-details)[record latest]. Nesting was evidenced by 4 ad. and 13 yg. on 4 Aug at Blue L. (SJD), 1 ad. and 4 yg on 28 Aug and 1 juv. on 29 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), and 2 imm. on 28 Sep n. of Clear L. (RGo).

American Coot: High count: 4,350 on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Other large groups were 2,000 on 8 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 1,000 on 20 Oct at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). On 25 Nov, 500 were still at West Okoboji (SJD) as the winter storm hit the northern part of the state.

Sandhill Crane: Last: 10 in last week of November at Otter Creek M. (Mike Oetker fide JJD). High count: 90 on 27 Oct at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (wildlife personnel fide PE). The last 7 were at Goose L. in Clinton Co. on 15 Sep (PCP). Other reports include 2 on 24 Sep at New Albin (JDa), 2 in late Oct at Brown's Sl. in Lucas Co. (Jim Coffey fide SJD), and 1 on 24 Oct at Forney L. (SJD). Two pairs nested at Otter Creek M. last summer and produced 3 young (Mike Oetker fide JJD).

Black-bellied Plover: First and high count: 40 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC)[3rd earliest]. Last: 3 on 22 Sep at Amana L. (JLF). Only 3 other singles were reported.

American Golden-Plover: First: 1 on 9 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPr). Last: 1 on 14 Nov at Black Hawk L. (PE). High count: 91 on 9 Oct in bean stubble in Story Co. (PHA/RIA). Counts at the Davenport sod farm were 23 and 25 on 31 Aug and 7 Sep (PCP). There were 4 other reports.

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 21 Oct at Runnells A. (SJD). High count: 4 on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

Piping Plover: All (singles): 4 Aug at Midwest Power Ponds (SJD); 12-14 Aug at Red Rock Res. (JLF, m.ob.); and an imm. at Black Hawk L. on 15 Sep (JLF)[3rd latest].

Killdeer: High count: 75 on 18 Sep at Runnells A. (JSi).

Black-necked Stilt: 2 were reported on 5 Sep at Storm L. in Buena Vista Co. (*PCP).

American Avocet: First: 2 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Last: 1 on 6 Nov at Amana L. in Iowa Co. (CE-details)[3rd latest]. High count: 82, which landed in the water, on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from 8 other locations from mid-August to late October, which is more than usual.

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 16 Nov at Hallett's Quarry in Story Co. (SJD). High count: 15 on 23 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: 14 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 400 on 1 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD). Another large number was 100 on 18 Sep at Runnells A. (JSi).

Solitary Sandpiper: Last: 29 Sep at Black Hawk L. (DeC).

Willet: All: 2 on 13 Aug at Red Rock Res. (AMJ, MPr); 1 on 13 Aug at Sheldon Basin in Fremont Co. (PHA/RIA); 1 on 14 Aug at Spirit L. (CJF); and 4 on 28 Aug at Rathbun Res. (TNJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: Last: 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (PCP-details).

Upland Sandpiper: Last: 3 on 31 Aug at Davenport sod farm (PCP). High count: 20 on 10 Aug at Davenport sod farm (PCP).

Hudsonian Godwit: 1 in basic plumage was at Amana L. on 28, 30 Oct (*THK, CE-details)[record latest].

Marbled Godwit: 1 was at Red Rock Res. on 13 Aug (AMJ, MPr-details).

Ruddy Turnstone: The only report was of 1 at Red Rock Res. from 12 to 14 Aug (JLF, m.ob.).

Sanderling: First: 4 on 4 Aug at Midwest Power Ponds (SJD). Last: 3 on 7 Oct at Rathbun Res. (TNJ). High count: 8 on 10 Sep at Black Hawk L. (MPr). There were reports from two other locations.

Western Sandpiper: All: 1 on 3 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr-bill details); 1 juv. on 18 Aug at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. (HZ); 1 basic on 28 Oct at Amana L. (*THK)[2nd latest]; and 2 (one with long droopy bill) on 6 Nov in Clay Co. (LAS-details)[record latest]. The identification of these late birds is based on bill details, which may not be highly reliable. In the past, late black-legged peeps in basic plumage were usually reported as Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Least Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. (THK).

White-rumped Sandpiper: The white rump was seen in flight on a bird at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (AMJ)[record latest]. Most of the reports of this rare fall migrant in Iowa are minimally substantiated.

Baird's Sandpiper: First: 5 on 3 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr). Last: 2 on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res. (SJD). High count: 33 on 8 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SJD). There were reports from three other locations.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 10 Nov at Anderson L. (SJD). High count: 900 on 1 Aug near Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD).

Dunlin: First: 28 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JLF). Last: 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (MPr). High count: 3 on 14 Oct at Runnells A. (JSi). That is all that were reported.

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: 1 basic on 14 Oct at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (THK). High count: 100 on 18 Sep at Runnells A. (JSi).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 3 on 3 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS, SJD). Last: 1 on 12 Sep at Otter Creek M. (MPr). High count: 28 on 4 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS). From 1 to 8 were found at eight other locations.

Short-billed Dowitcher: There were 2 reports from August.

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 11 alt. on 12 Aug at Forney L. (DHe). Last: 2 juv./basic on 25 Nov at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (*THK)[record latest]. High count: 40 on 30 Oct at Red Rock Res. (PCP).

Common Snipe: High count: 54 on 10 Nov at Anderson L. (SJD).

American Woodcock: Last: 3 on 3 Nov at Effigy Mounds N.M. (JLF).

Wilson's Phalarope: All: 1 on 1 Aug near Union Slough N.W.R. (SJD); and 1 on 12 Aug at Forney L. (DHe).

Red-necked Phalarope: All (singles): 11 Aug at Saylorville Res. (WV-details)[ties 3rd earliest]; 16 Aug at Princeton M. (DCD); and 22 Aug, 8-9 Sep at Otter Creek M. (JLF, MPr, THK).

Red Phalarope: 1 was at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. on 29 Nov (*LAS-photo).

Parasitic Jaeger: An imm. was reported on 22 Sep at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (*EuA).

Long-tailed Jaeger: An ad. at Tomahawk M. and Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 4 to 13 Sep was seen by many and photographed (*PE, *HWW, *WRS, *PCP, *LAS, *BKP/LJP-photo, *THK, *JLF, *DP-photos, *MPr, *BPr). this is Iowa's second record of this species.

Laughing Gull: A juv. found at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. on 31 Jul (Chuck Fuller fide JLF) was seen on 6, 8 Aug (*TNJ-photo, *JLF). A first-basic bird was at Midwest Power Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 19, 24, and 29 Oct (*WRS, *BKP/LJP).

Franklin's Gull: Last: 20 Nov at Rathbun Res. (RLC). High count: 15,000 on 24 Sep at the landfill in Dickinson Co. (LAS). High counts at reservoirs were 14,000 on 12 Oct at Rathbun Res. (SJD) and 8,000 on 13 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

Little Gull: An ad. was at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. from 14 to 20 Nov (*SJD-photo, *JJD, *THK, *AMJ, *MPr, *BPr, *JLF, *RLC, *CE).

Common Black-headed Gull: On 2 Aug an adult in alternate plumage was found on the northwest side of Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. Less than an hour later a juvenile was found at Kettleson Hogsback A. and subsequently it was fed by a different adult (*SJD-photo). These birds were seen by many with the last report of an adult on 12 Aug (*LAS, *PE, *MPr, *BPr, *JLF, *THK, *PHA/RIA-photos, *PCP, *ET, *BKP/LJP). An adult in basic plumage was found at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. on 17, 21, and 23 Nov (*RLC, *SJD, *JJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 1 on 8 Aug at Red Rock Res. (MPr)[ties 2nd earliest]. Last: 8 on 29 Nov at Big Creek L. (SJD). High count: 718 at Big Creek L. on 14 Nov (SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: High count: 5,000 on 28 Nov at Red Rock Res. (SJD). By 2 Aug there were already 400 at the landfill in Dickinson Co. (SJD).

Herring Gull: First: 1 third-basic bird on 2 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD). Also early was 1 on 28 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Great Black-backed Gull: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Sabine's Gull: A juvenile was at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. from 5 to 13 Sep (*BKP/LJP, *WRS, *PE, *THK, *JLF, *DP-photo, *MPr, *ET).

Caspian Tern: Last: 1 on 24 Sep at Amana L. (CE). High count: 80 on 8 Sep migrating over Indianola (JSi). From 1 to 4 were reported from four other locations.

Common Tern: An ad. was identified by call and dark outer primaries on 3 Aug at Spirit L. (SJD). Others were at Big Creek L.: 1 on 31 Aug (JSi), 1 on 4 Sep (PHA/RIA-details), and 6 on 28, 30 Sep (JLF)[3rd latest].

Forster's Tern: Last: 1 on 22 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AMJ). High count: 6 on 25 Sep at West Okoboji (LAS).

Least Tern: At Midwest Power Ponds in Pottawattamie Co., 2 ad. and 2 half-grown yg. were seen on 4 Aug (SJD); 4 were there on 13 Aug (PHA/RIA); and 1 remained on 30 Aug (AMJ).

Black Tern: Last: 2 in basic plumage on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details)[record latest]. High count: 18 on 3 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

Mourning Dove: In Sioux Co., 60 roosted in two trees on 24 Sep, and most were gone by mid-Oct (JV).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Last: 26 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Last: 3 on 1 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 6 on 22 Aug at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Barn Owl: In Taylor Co., in late Aug 11 fledged from two nest boxes at the Delbert Freemyer farm (BEh, JLF, MPr). In Adair Co., in late Aug a nest in a box was destroyed by a raccoon (BEh). In Ringgold Co., in early Sep young fledged from a nest in an abandoned farm house (BEh). In Wayne Co., in mid-Sep 6 fledged from a nest in a steel corn bin (BEh). At Chelsea in Tama Co., on 10 Oct 3 young were rescued from a torn-down grain elevator (BEh). All nest sites were near set-aside grasslands (BEh). This is the most nesting activity reported for this species in several decades.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 1 was at Lake City on 14 Aug (DS).

Snowy Owl: The only report was from Madison Co. on 25 Nov (fide EuA/EIA).

Burrowing Owl: 2 ad. and 4 yg. were observed in southwestern Emmet Co. from 2 to 14 Aug (SJD, *PE, m.ob.). This is the first Iowa nest reported in several years.

Long-eared Owl: All: 4 on 21 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (SJD).

Short-eared Owl: First: a road kill on 16 Nov at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK). High count: 10 on 23 Nov near Chariton (Brent Danielson fide JJD). Singles were in Johnson and Story counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 28 Nov n. of Ledges S.P. (SJD).

Common Nighthawk: Last: 1 on 30 Oct in Sioux City at a football game (BL)[record latest]. High count: 250 on 26 Aug at Algona (MCK). Many were also in West Des Moines on 26 Aug (PHA/RIA). Other concentrations were 40 on 4 Sep in Sioux Co. (JV), 36 on 15 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP), and 16 on 20 Sep in Sioux City (BFH). On 16 Oct, 1 at Davenport was relatively late (DCD).

Chimney Swift: Last: 600 on 6 Oct at Sioux City (BL). High count: 1,000 on 5 Sep in Ames (JJD).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Last: 15 Oct at Sioux Center (JV). Another was near Iowa City until 8 Oct (JLF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: First: 17 Aug at Algona (MCK). Next: 19 Sep at Diamond L. (MPR).

Pileated Woodpecker: Singles were in Marshall Co. on 11 Aug and Tama Co. on 3 Oct (MPR).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: First: 17 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 16 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: Last: 7 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: 14, 15 Aug n. of Iowa City (JLF); 16 Aug at Saylorville Res. (MPR); 21 Aug near Norwalk (AMJ); and 3 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Least Flycatcher: First: 20 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Last: 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Western Kingbird: All: 2 on 16 Aug near Bartlett (MPR) and 1 on 24 Aug at Dan Green Sl. (DHe).

Eastern Kingbird: Last: 3 on 15 Sep in Sac Co. (JLF). Also, 6 were at Rock Valley on 14 Sep (JV).

Purple Martin: High count: 300 on 15 Aug at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Tree Swallow: Last: 6 on 23 Oct at Runnells A. (JSi). High count: 3,000 on 4 Sep in Lee Co. (CE).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Last: 6 on 4 Oct at Sioux City (BL).

Cliff Swallow: Last: 21 on 22 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 160 on 1 Sep at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Barn Swallow: Last: 12 on 23 Oct in Marion Co. (JSi).

Steller's Jay: A report is referred to the Records Committee.

Blue Jay: At Hitchcock N.A., the high daily counts for migrating birds were 406 on 22 Sep and 250 on 1 Oct (BKP/LJP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: First: 16 Sep n. of Iowa City (JLF). Only 7 other birds were reported, a marked contrast with 1993.

Brown Creeper: First: 26 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE). Others were reported by 27 and 28 Sep.

Carolina Wren: Resident birds were noted in Scott, Johnson (3 locations), and Pottawattamie counties.

House Wren: Last: 13 Oct at Algona (MCK). Next: 12 Oct in Ida Co. (PE).

Winter Wren: First: 17 Sep at Mason City (CJF).

Sedge Wren: All: 1 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

Marsh Wren: All: 3 on 24 Aug at Barringer Sl. (DHe); 1 on 1 Oct at Rathbun Res. (RLC); and 1 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (AMJ).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 2 on 27 Sep at Pine L. (MPR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 1 on 29 Aug at Des Moines (JSi). Last: 6 on 29 Oct at Red Rock Res. (RLC). High count: 35 on 4 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: All: 3 on 28 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS) and 1 on 11 Sep at Sioux Center (JV). The latter bird was a first yard and second county record for Van Dyk.

Veery: All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR) and 1 Sep at Iowa City (THK).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All: 28 Aug at Trumbull L. (LAS); 1-2 Sep at Iowa City (THK); and 22 Sep at Diamond L. (MPR)[3rd latest].

Swainson's Thrush: Last: 28 Sep at Sioux Center (JV). We have very little data on the fall migration of thrushes in Iowa other than that from tower kills.

Hermit Thrush: First: 4 Oct at Mason City (RGo).

Wood Thrush: Last: 18 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR).

Gray Catbird: Last: 13 Oct at Sioux Center (JV).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 11 Aug in Page Co. (JLF); 27 Aug in Monroe Co. (TNJ); and 12, 20 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC, TNJ).

Brown Thrasher: Last: 1 killed a small snake on 15 Oct in Warren Co. (JSi).

American Pipit: First: 3 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res. (JLF). Last and high count: 200 on 1 Nov at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD). Other concentrations were at Rathbun Res. with 50 on 9 Oct and 30 on 29 Oct (RLC).

Northern Shrike: First: 30 Oct at Trumbull L. (LAS). Others were in Winneshiek (DeC) and Harrison (BKP/LJP) counties on 1 Nov. Later reports were from Dickinson, Linn, Polk, and Sioux counties.

Loggerhead Shrike: A total of 16 birds were reported from 9 counties.

Bell's Vireo: All: 11, 16 Aug in Fremont Co. (JLF, MPr).

Solitary Vireo: First: 20 Aug at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (*PE)[record earliest]. Last: 4 Oct at Cardinal M. (DeC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Last: 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Warbling Vireo: Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Philadelphia Vireo: First: 14 Aug near Norwalk in Warren Co. (AMJ)[3rd earliest]. Last: 18 Oct at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (*PE)[record latest].

Red-eyed Vireo: Last and high count: 14 on 18 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Blue-winged Warbler: All: 21 Aug at Yellow River F. (MPr) and 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). The latter was the second record for Ida Co. (PE).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 27 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 2 on 5 Sep at Sweet M. (DeC).

Tennessee Warbler: First: 2 on 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 1 Oct at Liscomb (MPr).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 2 on 17 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and 1 at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). Last: 4 Nov at Sioux Center (JV). High count: 11 on 8 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE). There were 13 other reports of 1 to 7 birds, which is more than usual.

Nashville Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF) and L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (DeC). Last: 27 Oct n. of Iowa City (JLF). High count: 8 on 25 Sep in Story Co. (RLC).

Northern Parula: First: 28 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Last: 1 Oct at Liscomb (MPr).

Yellow Warbler: Last: 6 Sep at Pine L. (MPr).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First: 14 Aug at Yellow River F. (JLF). Last: 24 Sep at Effigy Mound N.M. (DeC) and Spirit L. (LAS).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 21 Aug near Norwalk (AMJ). Last: 27 Sep at Liscomb (MPr).

Cape May Warbler: All: 31 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr); and 9 Sep at Steamboat Rock (MPr).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 1 female on 17 Sep at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (LAS).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First: 6 Sep at Pine L. (MPr). Last: 4 Nov at Sioux Center (JV).

Black-throated Green Warbler: First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 4 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Blackburnian Warbler: First: 11 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Effigy Mounds N.M. (DeC).

Pine Warbler: All: 1 singing male on 26 Aug in Madison Co. (EuA/EIA); and 1 on 8 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details)[record latest].

Palm Warbler: Only 1 was mentioned.

Bay-breasted Warbler: First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF). Last: 4 on 25 Sep in Story Co. (RLC). High count: 8 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE).

Blackpoll Warbler: None were mentioned for fall. Correction: The record early bird reported for 24 Apr 1994 at Croton Unit (IBL 64:78) should be replaced by 26 Apr at Des Moines (RIC)[record earliest].

Black-and-white Warbler: First: 14 Aug Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 27 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). High count: 14 on 4 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

American Redstart: Last: 1 female on 18 Nov at Lake City in Calhoun Co. (DS-details)[record latest].

Ovenbird: Last: 1 Oct at Mason City (RGo)[ties 3rd latest].

Northern Waterthrush: First: 15 Aug at Mason City (CJF). Last: 25 Sep at Sioux Center (JV).

Connecticut Warbler: The only report was from Moorehead P. on 23 and 30 Aug (PE-details).

Mourning Warbler: First: 17 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 24 Sep at Spirit L. (LAS). High count: 7 on 31 Aug at Moorehead P. (PE). Correction: The record early birds reported for 30 Apr 1994 at Decorah (IBL 64:79) were seen on 24 May (DeC).

Common Yellowthroat: Last: 18 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD). Next: 17 Oct at Otter Creek M. (MPr).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 28 Sep at Liscomb (MPr). High count: 14 on 28 Aug in Clay Co. (LAS).

Canada Warbler: First: 14 Aug at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Last: 30 Sep at Liscomb (BPr)[ties 3rd latest]. High count: 4 on 3 Sep at Moorehead P. (PE).

Yellow-breasted Chat: The only report was from 24 Sep at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS)[3rd latest]. Northwest Iowa is a rare location for this species.

Scarlet Tanager: Last: 27 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP).

Northern Cardinal: In Northwest Iowa this species is found in riparian habitat, not usually in towns; however, birds have recently taken up residence in Larchwood in Lyon Co. (DCH) and Sioux Center in Sioux Co. (JV), continuing an expansion that began in southern Iowa at the turn of century.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Last: 1 female on 14 Nov in West Des Moines (PHA/RIA-details). High count: 28 on 5 Sep at Sweet M. (DeC).

Black-headed Grosbeak: 1 imm. female was seen on 1 Oct near Marquette in Clayton Co. (*FLM).

Blue Grosbeak: Reports from Fremont Co. were of 7 on 11 Aug (JLF), 3 on 16 Aug (MPr), and 1 on 23 Aug (BKP/LJP).

Indigo Bunting: Last: 8 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). There were 3 other early Oct reports.

Dickcissel: Last: 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

Rufous-sided Towhee: Birds of the western spotted race were at Mason City on 29 Sep (RGo), Moorehead P. on 16 Oct (PE), and Saylorville Res. on 16 and 21 Oct (SJD).

American Tree Sparrow: First: 25 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

Chipping Sparrow: Adults were tending a juv. cowbird at Amana L. on 14 Aug (DLD) and at Saylorville Res. on 31 Aug (JSi).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All: 1 on 8 Oct at Moorehead P. (PE).

Field Sparrow: Last: 24 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD).

Vesper Sparrow: Last: 23 Oct in Marion Co. (JSi).

Savannah Sparrow: Last: 30 Oct at Pleasant Creek L. (DLD).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Last: 21 Oct in Sioux Co. (JV).

Henslow's Sparrow: Unusual for fall were 1-3 nw. of Ida Grove in Ida Co. on 10, 14, and 15 Aug (*PE).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First: 24 Sep at Snake Creek M. (PHA/RIA). Last: 2 on 29 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC). High count: 4 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow: First and last: 19 and 30 Sep at Snake Creek M. (EuA/EIA, JLF). Other locations were Saylorville Res. on 25 Sep (CE-details) and Blue L. on 29 Sep (PE).

Fox Sparrow: First: 25 Sep at Kettleson Hogsback A. (LAS)[ties 3rd earliest].

Lincoln's Sparrow: First and last: 2 on 18 Sep and 3 on 5 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Swamp Sparrow: High count: 40 on 15 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

White-throated Sparrow: First: 17 Sep at Ames (JJD), Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr), and Mason City (CJF).

White-crowned Sparrow: First: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). High count: 35 on 28 Oct at Coralville Res. (DLD, JDa).

Harris's Sparrow: First: 3 on 17 Sep at Kindlespire P. in Clay Co. (LAS)[ties record earliest]. High count: 100 in late Oct at Oak Grove P. in Sioux Co. (JV). An imm. was in Ida Co. on 18 Sep (*PE)[3rd earliest].

Dark-eyed Junco: First: 14 Sep at Moorehead P. (*PE)[2nd earliest].

Lapland Longspur: First: 250 on 30 Oct in Kossuth Co. (MCK). High count: tens of thousands on 11 Nov in NW Iowa (SJD). Other large numbers were thousands on 7 Nov in Emmet Co. (DHe), 400 on 1 Nov in Guthrie Co. (SJD), and 400 on 9 Nov in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

Snow Bunting: First: 3 on 26 Oct n. of Dubuque (PCP). There were 8 other reports of 1 to 6 birds. Usually there are more Snow Buntings than this associated with large longspur flocks.

Bobolink: Last: 2 on 25 Sep at Snake Creek M. (CE).

Eastern Meadowlark: On 15 Oct, 6 were singing in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Last: 6 Sep at Tomahawk M. (THK).

Rusty Blackbird: First: small flock on 14 Oct at Tomahawk M. (PE). High count: 450 on 12 Nov at Tuttle L. in Emmet Co. (SJD).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 8 on 4 Aug and 2 on 24 Oct at Forney L. (SJD); 1 on 15 Oct at Big Wall L. (SJD); 13 on 12 Nov at Spring Run in Dickinson Co. (SJD); and 22 on 17 Nov at Blue L. in Monona Co. (PE). This is a large number of fall records for this species, which is expanding its range.

Common Grackle: In mid-Oct, 10,000 blackbirds (grackles, red-wings, and starlings) were at Sioux Center (JV).

Brown-headed Cowbird: See Chipping Sparrow.

Northern Oriole: Last: 13 Sep in Des Moines (JSi).

Purple Finch: First: 28 Sep at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr).

Pine Siskin: First: 6 on 24 Sep at Hitchcock N.A. (BKP/LJP). High count: 30 on 28 Sep at Algona (MCK).

COMMENT

This was an exciting fall for birding with lots of rare birds spread throughout the season. I received 38 reports and entered 1,380 bird sightings into a computer file. There were 84 documentations of 37 species. Note that the initials used with each record are citations to reports received, and these reports are filed for future reference. Some reporters list others observers present; these names are filed but not used in the citation. For rarities, only those providing a documentation or photograph are cited.

Although the nature of reports varies considerably, each plays a role in defining the avifauna of the state during the season. We have a number of very reliable observers consistently reporting from their own area. Of special note is the increased reporting of birds from northwestern Iowa in recent years. We have several observers covering selective habitat on an almost daily basis, such as hawk watchers Beth Proescholdt at Grammer Grove W.A. and Babs and Loren Padelford at Hitchcock W.A. and warbler watchers Pete Ernzen at Moorehead Park and Mark Proescholdt at Grammer Grove W.A.. Rarities are found by local birders and others like Steve Dinsmore, who seems to cover every water hole in the state. Some birders are on the lookout for early and late birds and report extensively on these. Also, we have "counters" who provide very useful information on population densities. Not all rare birds make it into the permanent record, as evidenced by reports on the I.O.U. Birdline that are not included in the reports submitted for publication.

As usual, most of the rare birds were extremely well documented by multiple observers. Special thanks go to Steve Dinsmore and Pete Ernzen for providing the opportunity for many to see Long-tailed Jaeger, Little Gull, and Common Black-headed Gulls and to Jim Fuller for daily updates on the Birdline. Technical problems continue to occur with documentations: observers name not included, year of the record not included, written in pencil so that xerox copies are of poor quality, and putting one sentence on the back so that duplication costs are doubled. The next Records Committee report will clarify which birds should be fully documented. In brief, these include Regular species marked with "***" on the Field Checklist, all Casual and Accidental species, and birds seen at unusual dates. A new Official Checklist will be published in 1995.

I have used a new style in the Species Accounts, which I hope will make them more readable, and I know makes the writing of the report easier. I also hope that the style will encourage reporters to contribute more information on first and last dates and high counts. Please let me know your suggestions for making the Field Reports more readable, interesting, and useful.

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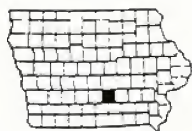
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LAUGHING GULLS AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE, ANN JOHNSON, AND MARK PROESCHOLDT

On 16 July 1991 Tim Schantz found a juvenile Laughing Gull at Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County. The bird was with a large flock of Ring-billed and Franklin's gulls at the Whitebreast Cove on the south side of the reservoir. On 6 August, Steve Dinsmore found another Laughing Gull, this one a second-summer bird, in the same area. Both birds remained in the area through at least 11 August. The following descriptions were written from our notes and detailed notes submitted by several other observers.



The juvenile bird was relatively easy to pick out from the other gulls by virtue of its body shape and dark appearance. With its long wing extension, it was just slightly shorter than the nearby Ring-billed Gulls, but its slimmer build and finer features gave it a generally smaller look. The head and neck were much more delicate, giving the bird more of a gentle "phalarope-look" as opposed to the "self-assured" perception of our more common gulls.

The overall color of the bird was dark brown. The bill was dark, about three fourths the length of the head, and showed an obvious gonys. Compared to a Franklin's Gull, this bird had a longer, thicker bill. The eye was dark, with faint white crescents above and below the eye. The head, neck, and breast were dark brown, except for a lighter area in the center of the breast and a pale area around the base of the bill. The belly and vent were white. The mantle was also dark brown, but darker than the breast. There was a small, light gray area on the upper mantle, probably an indication that the bird was molting into first-winter plumage. When perched, the wings appeared dark brown, gradually becoming black towards the wingtip. The wing coverts were edged in lighter feathers, creating a scalloped look. The wingtips extended well beyond the tail when the bird was perched. In flight, the primaries and secondaries were black and the wing coverts were dark brown. The underwing was white. Tail pattern was as follows: rump pale brown, white uppertail, and a broad, black terminal tail band. There was no evidence of the black hood typical of adult birds in basic plumage. The legs were black and nearly the length of those of a Ring-billed Gull. Separation from Franklin's Gull was based on size, longer wings, longer and more strongly hooked bill, proportionately longer legs, flatter crown, overall darker brown color, and wing and tail pattern.

The second-summer bird was with a large gull flock, mostly Ring-billed Gulls, but also included several Franklin's Gulls and the juvenile Laughing Gull. This bird was similar to the juvenile bird in size and structure. The bill was black, and of similar dimensions to the bill of the juvenile bird. The head, neck, underparts, and undertail were white, except for a pale gray area on the nape that almost connected the eyes. This bird also showed faint white eye crescents that were broken in front of and behind the eye. The mantle was dark gray, slightly darker than the mantle of a Ring-billed Gull. In flight, the outer primaries, and most of the inner ones, were black. The tail was white except for a black terminal band that was broken in the middle. The legs appeared dark. The bird was clearly in heavy molt, as evidenced by the worn flight feathers and rectrices. On the basis of these field marks, the bird was probably molting from second-summer to second-winter plumage.

The Laughing Gulls were last seen together on 11 August. These are the fifth and sixth records of Laughing Gull for Iowa, all since 1989. The other records include single juvenile birds at Red Rock Reservoir, Marion County on 19-26 August 1989, Midwest Power Ponds, Pottawattamie County on 27 August 1989, and at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County on 15 July 1991, a juvenile and a second-winter bird north of Burlington, Des Moines County on 9 September 1989 (Kent, T. H. 1991. *Iowa Bird Life* 61:29-32, Bendorf and Kent 1991, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:83-87), and an adult in breeding plumage at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County on 13 April 1990 (Bendorf 1992 *Iowa Bird Life* 62:21-23). Based on these records, it seems that Laughing Gulls are more frequent vagrants to Iowa than previously thought. More thorough checks of gull flocks at the large reservoirs and along the Mississippi River in late summer might produce more sightings of this species.

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WESTERN TANAGER IN EASTERN IOWA

DAVID L. DANKERT

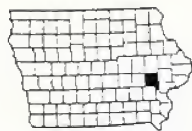
I arrived at Swan Lake at about 10:45 a.m. on 25 April 1994. Swan Lake is northwest of North Liberty in Johnson County and is in the Hawkeye Wildlife Area at Coralville Reservoir.

After viewing the lake for birds, I drove to the west end of the lake and found a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers feeding

in a small stand of trees. I also noticed a larger bird perched in the top of one of these trees. This bird was about 25 feet away and facing me. With the sun behind me providing good viewing conditions, I noted a brilliant red head and yellow breast, and knew that I was looking at a bird that was unusual in Iowa.

With my adrenaline flowing, I quickly trained my binoculars on the bird, absorbing any details that the strong, windy conditions would allow. I saw a red forehead, chin, and throat, and the red extended into the upper breast. The remainder of the underparts were yellow. Because the bird was directly facing me, I could not see the upper parts of its wings and body. After a brief but exciting eight to ten seconds, the bird took flight, dipped down behind the trees, and was gone.

Hurriedly, I checked my field guide, and soon realized that I had seen a male Western Tanager, but I felt that I needed another look at this bird. It was a life species for me, and I wanted to record as much information as possible, but a three-hour



search yielded nothing but exhaustion and unfortunately that "second look" would never come.

I contacted Jim Fuller, and he and Tom Kent went to the same area the next morning and relocated the bird. I also returned later that day and searched for the bird, but my search was brief and unsuccessful, due to a dust storm created by strong southerly winds.

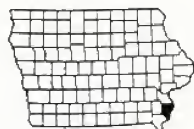
This sighting is the eleventh record for the state. Dating back to 1969 there are 10 previous records in Iowa: four from the western region of the state, three from the central, and three from the east. Seven of these previous records occurred in the spring, with two in the fall and one in the summer. It appears that this species could show up anywhere in Iowa, especially in the spring.

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LARK BUNTING IN DES MOINES COUNTY

CHARLES FULLER

One of my favorite birding areas in Des Moines County is the wide agricultural belt that is east of Highway 99 and north of Burlington. This area includes four or five excellent vantage points where one can view the Mississippi River. On 30 April 1994, as I was making my rounds in the old floodplain and heading toward the river, I drove down my favorite road where, in most late winters and early springs, Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings can be found. This was a "B" level minimum maintenance road and was just dry enough to traverse without getting stuck. At a 90 degree turn in the road, there were two birds in the middle of the road, 30-40 feet from my car. The first was easily identified as a Vesper Sparrow, while the other got my immediate, undivided attention. The most conspicuous field mark was the large creamy-white wing patch (not bars). The bird in question was slightly larger than the nearby Vesper Sparrow and had a heavy sparrow-like bill. It had a slight, but readily apparent eye ring with a light stripe just above and through the eye. The breast was streaked, and the tail was slightly notched with a white-tipped end. The bird also had a very fine white outertail line. After observing the bird on the ground for nearly a full minute, it abruptly flew and possibly landed in a recently plowed field 0.2 mile away. My first impression of this bird was that I had found a female Lark Bunting, and the various field guides I consulted did nothing to change my mind. Although there are a number of previous records of Lark Buntings from western Iowa, there are few from eastern Iowa and none from Des Moines or other nearby southeastern Iowa counties.



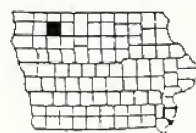
It must be noted that on 29 April, the day before the sighting, a powerful front came through Iowa, ushering in strong northwest winds which gusted above 25 mph. I speculate that it was this weather disturbance that brought in this bird.

420 South Garfield, Burlington, IA 52601

CLARK'S GREBE IN CLAY COUNTY

MARION M. BREWER

During spring, I like to tour eastern Clay and western Palo Alto counties every week to see what birds I can find. One area I visit regularly is Trumbull Lake in Clay County. Over the past several years, it has been especially good for grebes. This spring proved no exception as I found Red-necked, Eared, and Western grebes there.



On 13 May 1994, I stopped at the boat access at the southwest corner of Trumbull Lake and scanned the lake. Among the birds on the lake were a pair of large grebes. One was clearly a Western Grebe while the other was a Clark's Grebe. The latter bird had a bright yellow bill which contrasted with the greenish-yellow bill of the Western Grebe. The lores region of the Clark's Grebe was white and the white coloration extended in front of, over, and behind the reddish-colored eye. The two grebes were preening and diving together while I watched them. I revisited the area on 19 May and saw one Clark's Grebe again in the same area but the Western Grebe was not present.

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BOOK REVIEWS

A Guide to the Birding Areas of Missouri compiled by Kay Palmer. Audubon Society of Missouri. 1993, 179 pp., paperbound \$10.00. Available from Kay Palmer, 15100 S. Clinkenbeard, Ashland, MO 65010. \$1.50 postage and handling. With the exception of Zimmerman and Patti's *A Guide to Bird Finding in Kansas and Western Missouri*, no other book has been published on bird finding for the entire state of Missouri. This guide contains descriptions of areas from many contributors. As a result, writing styles vary. Many of the articles appeared in *The Bluebird* the society's official journal.

The guide breaks the state down into six regions. Each region averages 17 birding areas with the exception of the southwestern region which has 45. Directions are given to each area as well as short descriptions of the natural features, species that can be expected to be seen, and general information or restrictions. Maps are provided for 35 of the 128 areas described. Unfortunately, the quality is not uniform. Many have been reduced to such a degree that a magnifying glass is needed to read the print.

An index lists bird species and birding areas by county, state parks, and conservation areas. An annotated official state checklist is provided with the guide, but it could easily become separated from the book. Adding several pages to the book and reprinting the checklist could have easily solved the problem. There are not any individual species accounts; rather birds are classed by the habitats in which they could be found such as forest edge or shrubby fields. A bar graph time line of arrivals and departures would have been helpful as well as a listing of abundance status.

These limitations notwithstanding, those not familiar with Missouri birding areas will find this guide helpful. A final word of caution. The preface states that "due to the extreme flooding in 1993, conditions in birding areas along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers could be quite different from the way in which they have been described."--Hank Zaletel

Crows and Jays. A Guide to the Crows, Jays and Magpies of the World by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1994. 191 pp., hardbound \$40. This guide covers 122 species. For each, it discusses identification, description, age/sex, measurements, geographic variation, voice, habits, breeding, habitat, distribution, status, and references. These writeups average about a page per species and provide a good summary of information. The 30 plates by Hilary Burn match the usual excellence shown in other similar guides. In all there are 213 portrait-type illustrations plus 52 smaller ones of birds in flight. In those species where the sexes differ, both sexes are shown along with some illustrations of immatures or geographically different subspecies of one species (eight races of the Eurasian Jay are shown). The page facing the plates includes a small range map for each species, a brief synopsis of each species' range and habitat, and a brief discussion of a few key field characteristics. Overall the plate and facing page provide enough information to allow identification of most of the species. I had long assumed that this was a somewhat "dull" group of birds and was surprised by the bright colors and sometimes spectacular tails and crests of some of the jays. A brief discussion of the book's format and terminology, and two pages of references complete the book. As with other similar guides, the maps are small and provide little detail but for this group, that seems to be a minor problem.

The question of who should purchase this book is difficult to answer. Most of the species are fairly easy to identify and those that aren't generally have distinctly different ranges. The plates are very good and should answer most questions related to identification. Only seven species covered in the book have been reported from Iowa, although several others are found in nearby states. To me, its main attraction is the fairly thorough although somewhat abbreviated summary of information about this interesting and sometimes surprisingly colorful group of birds.--J.J.D.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

Censusing birds was the dominant theme in the March 1945 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. The lead article by Iowa State College professor George Hendrickson discussed censusing in general with the emphasis on the Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Censuses sponsored by the National Audubon Society. The next article by Harold Ennis encouraged participation in the upcoming third spring bird count. Ennis also announced that, despite wartime limits on food and travel, the spring meeting would be held at Ottumwa as planned, albeit with a streamlined agenda. Editor Fred Pierce's article on the 1944 Christmas Bird Counts presents a stark contrast with modern-day counts. The 12 counts located a total of 56 species. Only two species of waterfowl (Mallard, Common Merganser) were found, and only one Bald Eagle was reported. The high count was at Des Moines with 38 species. Times have changed. An article by Mrs. Myrle Jones describing her trials as the wife of a bird bander included tales of banding in bad weather and the never-ending paperwork required of banders. The issue ended with a list of members of the organization. The total membership was 239; 179 in Iowa, 38 outside the state, and 22 in military service.--ed.



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